

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 01176 132205Z
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AF-04 SS-14 /029 W
-----093237 132214Z /62

P R 131408Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7639
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1176

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS

AF FOR HARROP; LONDON AND BELGRADE FOR AMBASSADORS AND DCMS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, ET
SUBJECT: NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

REF: (A) STATE 063252, (B) LONDON 03973

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR VOJINOVIC CALLED ON ME AFTERNOON
MARCH 13 TO REPORT HE HAD CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS SAME
MORNING ALONG LINES REF B WITH EPMG FOREIGN MINISTER FELLEKE.
FELLEKE, HE SAID, TOLD HIM THAT MATTER WOULD BE TAKEN UP
WITH CHAIRMAN MENGISTU.

2. FELLEKE'S STATEMENT, AT LEAST AS REPORTED BY
VOJINOVIC, CONTRASTS STRANGELY WITH PERMSEC DAWIT'S
ASSURANCES TO ME MORNING MARCH 13 THAT MATTER WAS PURELY
A PROBLEM OF BUREAUCRATIC MACHINERY "INSIDE FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND DELAY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CHAIRMAN."
THAT COMMENT WAS MADE AFTER HE HAD READ COPY OF DAVID
AARON'S LETTER TO MENGISTU WHICH I HAD DELIVERED TO HIM
SECRET

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FOR TRANSMITTAL. BOTH DAWIT AND VOJINOVIC COMMENTED
THAT SIX WEEKS WAS NOT INORDINATELY LONG TIME TO WAIT,
AND THOUGHT OCCURS THAT PERHAPS EPMG DOES NOT WANT TO
SHOW GREATER HASTE IN GRANTING AGREEMENT TO U.S. AMBASSA-
DOR THAN PERHAPS IT HAS TO SOME OF ITS CLOSER FRIENDS.

3. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR HOPED HIS DEMARCHE (PRESUMABLY

TO BE REPEATED BY MINIC WHO IS DUE HERE TOMORROW) WOULD BE USEFUL BECAUSE "IT IS IN YUGOSLAVIA'S AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES' INTEREST TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND U.S." HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "OUR EASTERN FRIENDS" ARE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF SIGNS OF RECENT RAPPROCHEMENT AND ARE WORKING AGAINST IT.

4. I THANKED VOJINOVIC FOR HIS DEMARCHE, ASKED HIM TO PURSUE IT AND KEEP ME AS WELL INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ON FURTHER REACTIONS AS THEY DEVELOP.
MATHERON

SECRET

NNN

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